



Dealer News

July 2006

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Published by:

CPT Rob Fortune

FROM THE COMMANDER...

Dealer Family and Friends:

We Dealers on the Euphrates in Forward Operating Base (FOB) Iskandariyah are enjoying the summer weather and continuing operations. July has been a good month and we have been busy.

On the 22nd of July the battalion fought "the Battle of Musayyib" which turned out to be the largest single engagement that the 4th Infantry Division has fought on this deployment. We rode to the sound of the guns in true Army fashion and were able to restore stability to the city of Musayyib after "criminals and looters" kidnapped some Iraqi Police, stripped them of their weapons and stole their police cars. In conjunction with our Iraqi Army and Police brethren our tanks and Bradleys spearheaded a two-pronged assault back into the city to restore order against approximately a hundred men armed with rocket propelled grenades (RPGs) and machine guns. We were supported by attack helicopters and every other asset the brigade and division could push us. We fought for about six hours and at the end of the day Iraqi Security Forces backed up by

our forces controlled the city. Your Dealer was brave in battle and magnanimous in victory. Within hours of the battle we were marshalling food, water and aid for those who had houses damaged or who needed assistance.

The FOB continues to improve. I am pleased to announce that over 200 Dealers now reside in containerized housing. This is a vast improvement over the conditions we inherited and the Soldiers truly appreciate the upgrades. More cans are being laid each week and we should have the majority of our battalion in Dealer quality housing by August's end.

The R&R program is in its last month now. We have been able to expand the list of Soldiers who are entitled to R&R, so if your Dealer deployed prior to the end of February they are authorized a slot home. Matter of fact I am taking advantage of the R&R program and will brief the Family Readiness Group on the 7th of August at Fort Hood. I look forward to giving the Dealer families a "report from the front."

We continue to serve our Regiment, our Brigade, our Division and our Country proudly. We have experienced the sharp sting of battle, the pain of losing friends and

comrades and the elation of victory on the field of strife. Most of all, we have felt the warmth of knowing that we serve a just and good cause and have done so well.

Until next month, keep us in your prayers and thoughts. Send us mail and good wishes.

LTC Pat Donahoe
Dealer 6

Dealers...Deeds...Mesopotamia
...the 67th!!

Patrick.donahoe@us.army.mil

HELLCAT NEWS

Greetings from FOB Iskandariyah! As we complete our ninth month of deployment, our thoughts are never far from the ones we left behind. This past month the Company has seen significant improvements in their quality of life. HHC was the first Company to move into the new containerized housing units; which means consistent A/C and power. The rest of the Battalion should follow suit in the next month. This change in living conditions comes at the apex of the Iraq summer heat.

On 23 July the Battalion fought elements of the Mahdi Militia in the city of Mussayib. It was a hard fought battle with Soldiers clearing the city, street by street. Again your Hellcat Soldiers were at the tip of the spear. The Mortar Platoon supported Delta Company as a dismounted infantry platoon on their inward push into the city center. The Scouts established

blocking positions in order to isolate the objective. The Medics along with the Battalion Surgeon established a forward treatment area in order to facilitate any medical care needed. By all standards, the battle was won decisively; and the Soldiers deserve all the credit. True heroes were made that day.

This month we had another fallen comrade; SFC Scott Smith was killed while performing his duties as an EOD technician. He was a great Soldier who had a wealth of knowledge and a true appreciation for living life to the fullest. He will be missed but never forgotten.

We would like to congratulate the following Soldiers who have made the difficult leap from the enlisted ranks to joining the coveted NCO corps; SGT Destree and SGT Gibbs. Their proven ability to lead Soldiers is a quality that will enhance them in their future endeavors. Additional promotions include: SPC Amos, SPC Durgin, SPC Haight, SPC Lewis, SPC Velez, SPC Walker, SPC Wirth and PV2 Malia.

The month of August will be the last time Soldiers will be able to enjoy mid-tour leave. I assure you that all Soldiers that wanted to take mid-tour leave were afforded the opportunity. This month the following Soldiers will go on mid-tour leave: SSG Simmons, SGT Runge, 1LT Pascal, PFC Benjamin, SPC Rossnagel, 1LT Del Toro, and CPT Perry.

In conclusion, this will be my last month as the commander of HHC; CPT Tony Kron will take the helm

on 22 August. I would like to take a few moments and say that it has been an absolute privilege to lead such men in combat. I know that their excellent performance is in large part due to the consistent support that you give them. I would also like to thank my wife Angie for all her hard work as the FRG leader and all the other wives for their leadership or involvement in the FRG. If I could give all of them a medal I would; thank you again. As we bid farewell to another month we will continue to lean forward in the foxhole and remain focused on our mission. Until the next time.....

CPT Robert Perry
Hellcat 6



MADDOG in the fight





CPT Perry and ISG Hendricks

ARCHANGEL NEWS

Dear Wives and Families of the Assassins,

As you all know the past month has been a tough one. With the loss of two of our comrades CPL Christopher Rose and CPL Jeremy Jones it has been a difficult adjustment for the soldiers still deployed and the families of these fallen American Heroes. We continue to move forward with the same tenacity and strength as the Assassins have always had despite our great losses. Please continue to pray for the Families of the fallen and the soldiers still in harms way.

Recently, the Dealer Battalion won a great victory in the city of Musayyib. The soldiers of this battalion proved their metal against a determined enemy destined to dissolve the banner of freedom for the Iraqi people that these soldiers have worked so hard to achieve over the past eight months. We were drawn into an urban fight when one of our sister companies became decisively engaged with militiamen from Musayyib. We quickly mobilized our forces to come to the aid of our fellow comrades. As soldiers we are all brothers and it is out

of duty and respect for one another that we respond to such a threat with ferocity to ensure a swift victory. Our soldiers did just that. The enemy in Musayyib was quickly overwhelmed with the superior fire power and speed of our brave men. We achieved this victory with minor injuries on our side, but inflicted a heavy blow to the enemy. This Battalion has received high accolades from around Iraq, to include the theater commander, General Casey. Your soldiers performed with distinction and I am personally very proud of them, it is an honor to be their commander.

The police station in Jurf as Sakhr is nearing its final stages of construction and should be ready by the end of August. This will be a huge step forward in the stability of Jurf because we will have Iraqi Police presence around the clock in our area of operation. The local people are very pleased with the progress of the police station and are anxious to have their own people guarding their interests.

We are now eight months through this deployment. There is much work to be done and your soldiers still require your love and support to get through these next three and a half months.

Your soldiers are doing great things; please continue to support them through e-mails and letters, for it gives a much needed boost to your loved ones. God bless and stay safe.

CPT Bradley Maroyka
Archangel 6

BUSHMASTER NEWS

Fellow Bushmaster family members, friends and loved ones, it is one of my favorite times of the month- the time when I get to write back to you all and brag about all of the hard work your soldiers have been doing. My name is CPT Barry Wiley (XO) and I have the privilege of writing this letter for the month of July since CPT Matthew Koehler is home on leave with his wonderful wife and son. To begin I would like to thank you all for your continued support and love, without it I have no idea where any of us would be. Lots of things have been happening here at FOB Iskandariyah like the Command Sergeant Major of the Army stopping by for a visit and speaking with over 15 of our soldiers over lunch, and the Denver Broncos cheerleaders coming by to speak with a lot of our soldiers. There have been a lot of FOB renovations most notably the addition of more than a hundred more room containers that we will eventually move into that are all air conditioned and all have their own power outlets. The new renovations will have every soldier living inside of a container and consolidated closer to the internet and phone center and the dining facility.

More important than what is going on inside the FOB is what your soldiers are doing outside of the FOB. Times are tough in Iraq right now, but I am pleased to say that thanks to all the hard work

and dedication of your Bushmaster soldiers our area of responsibility has never been safer. This is all evident by a Sheik meeting that I had with the local leaders of our area where they specifically thanked me for all of the hard work our soldiers have been doing to keep them safe. The work our Bushmasters do day in and day out is something to be proud of. The relationships we are building within our area of operation are finally beginning to pay off with better communication between us and the local Iraqis we are intending to help. About two months ago we saw a spike in insurgent activity in our area and your soldiers took the burden on their own shoulders to work twice as hard to combat that spike and I am proud to say that we are now in the midst of the safest times we have ever had in our area of operation.

The Bushmasters have had to be one of the most flexible companies in this Battalion because we have been asked to conduct operations over a 60 kilometer battle space, with a wide variety of missions. One of those different missions was headed by LT Donahue (who would like to send an I love you to his new wife), SSG Fox (Who would like to say hello to his lovely wife Jebelyn and his sons Nicolas and Antonio), and SSG Holcomb which had them leading a cement truck around Iraq in order to help repair roads making the main roads trafficable to the locals showing them that we care about rebuilding their country. Another mission saw SGT

Quillen, SPC Ceballos, SGT Mendoza, and SGT Frye leading a group of engineers around conducting assessments of bridges to help decrease the traffic moving into and out of different towns. We also were able to train more Iraqi Army soldiers on their guard duties to the point where we now have full confidence in them guarding their own important areas which decreases the amount of U.S. soldiers that are needed to help the Iraqis. The most recent guard transition was led by LT Jackson (who would like to say hello and I love you to his mother Gretchen Jackson), SSG Velez, SSG Ramos, and SGT Bueche who were able to transition authority to Iraqis in a professional and efficient manner. Non-commissioned officers like SSG Mericle have stepped up to plate and assumed more responsibility in the absence of their platoon sergeants who are also going home on leave. Its all of the hard work from individuals like the ones I mentioned and many that were not mentioned that are the reason we are successful.

I would also like to take a moment to say thank you to the hard work of our mechanics who day in and day out work hard behind the scenes to ensure our vehicles are ready to move out on a moments notice but rarely receive any acknowledgement. The hard work of SSG Fenter (Team Chief), SGT Casey, SPC Niswonger, SGT Gay, SPC Neirsbach, PFC Malmaquest, SPC Arizmendez, SPC Miller, SPC Burke, and SGT Wegscheider. What people

don't know is that these men are held responsible for over 30 combat vehicles and have over a 96% operational readiness rate which is remarkable for back at Fort Hood, and an unbelievable feat during combat. As the executive officer I am in charge of the maintenance team and I will be the first to tell you that this team is so professional and so good that I am now just a figurehead (Well to tell you the truth I just get in the way, I can't tell you how many times SGT Casey has had to tell me that I slow him down with all of my questions =). It is the hard work of these men that has allowed Bushmaster to roll out on any mission at any time.

There have been a lot of changes within the company as well. CPL Medina has transitioned out of the administration shop and moved into a team leader spot in 1st platoon and is doing exceptionally well. SPC Wyrick (who would like to say hello to Uncle Ken and Aunt Sue) has continued to grow and has demanded more responsibility daily to the point were he is now in charge of the administration shop and has to deal with CPT Koehler and me on a daily basis with all of our paperwork. Along with SPC Wyrick, soldiers like PFC Brazell, PFC Johanek, CPL Francoeur, and SPC Bocklemen continue to not only conduct their primary jobs but volunteer frequently when missions come around. It's this attitude and commitment to their duty that has allowed us to be so successful. The addition of SSG Brisbane to the administration shop has proved

to be a good change and he is working hard daily. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome SSG Simon to HQ as he is now the HQ platoon sergeant and is doing a remarkable job working with LT Owen.

While all of the Bushmasters want to say thank you and send I love you's home, I have a few soldiers next to me that would like to take this opportunity to express their gratitude. LT Brown would like to send a hello to his parents Larry and Jan who just returned from a wonderful cruise. SGT Valdez would like to say hello to Betty Reyes and Roy Reyes and let them know he is doing well and can't wait to come home. SPC Rockhold would like to send an "I love you" to Dixie Schaefer and let her know that he misses her. SGT Durham would like to say happy birthday to his wife Amanda and wishes her a wonderful 23rd. CPL Blas would like to say hi and I love you to his mother Candy and let his family know he will see them soon when he leaves for mid-tour leave. SPC Rios would also like to send an "I love" to his mother Gloria. While I have this opportunity I would also like to thank my now fiancée Christine Kessler, and let her know that I cannot wait to be home and share forever with her.

With 4-5 months remaining in theatre I would like to ask for all of your continued support during these times. Our focus has never been more in tune then where it is right now. While 2/3 of our deployment has been completed, this last stretch will

be the most critical and we look forward to that challenge, especially with all of the support you all give us. As the XO of this company I am so proud of all the growth this company has shown over the past months and equally proud of all of the hard work all of the Bushmasters have put into making our area of operation a better place for all. Be proud of your soldier and all that he has done these past 7 months, and know that every Bushmaster is a part of something bigger then us all, but we are so critical to that bigger mission. We love you all and God Speed. If any of you have any issues or comments you can reach me at barry.wiley@us.army.mil

CPT Barry E. Wiley II
Bushmaster 5



CPT Wiley and SGT Mendoza
on Bradley



SFC Buckley, CPL Gutierrez,
CPT Wiley

CARNIVORE NEWS

Greetings to the Families and Friends of Team Carnivore:

The fight continued for yet another month as July was spent primarily attempting to take the fight directly to the enemy. The first two weeks of the month concentrated on conducting raids on suspected terrorist hideouts within AO Carnivore. Those operations, particularly those in conjunction with Iraqi Special Operations Forces, were extremely successful as we disrupted the enemy's ability to conduct attacks against us. We successfully detained twelve terrorists during these and other operations, and Iraqi Forces detained several more. The disruption of the enemy worked well as we experienced a drastic reduction in the number of IEDs against our patrols. However, it is not to say that we had an easy month or that our work is done here. We have much work left to do, and each day brings greater encouragement as the Soldiers easily recognize the tasks at hand and go forward with a positive attitude about what must be done. The Soldiers of Team Carnivore are an inspiration to all, and you would be extremely proud of them if you were as lucky as I am to see them work every day. I could not be more grateful every day to have such men in my command.

Stellar Soldiers for the month of July include but are not limited to the following Carnivores: SGT Barton for his expertise as the commo rep and as the interim HQ platoon

sergeant while SSG Riniker was on leave; SPC Connelly for his performance as the acting supply sergeant while SGT Langone was on leave; SGT Oakes for his performance as the interim squad leader; SPC Mingone as an additional dismount and an outstanding tanker; SSG Phillips for his performance as a tank commander during the fight in Mussayib, fighting the vehicle exceptionally well despite mechanical problems he encountered; SPC Willis for his dedication as a tank driver and the effort he puts into maintaining his vehicle; SPC Garza for his excellent performance as an interim Bradley gunner; and SPC Brarluna for his continued excellent performance as a Bradley driver.

Promotions for the month of July included the following: SPC Atchley to Sergeant; PFC Connelly to Specialist, and PFC Garza to Specialist.

August will close out all Soldiers who deployed before 1 February 2006 for the R&R program. Those taking leave in the month of August are myself, SPC Scarborough, PVT Vucetich, and ISG King. My intent is to make it home prior to the 07 August Battalion FRG meeting so that I can speak to all of the Team Carnivore wives after the Battalion meeting. It will be a great opportunity for me to answer your questions directly as well as to tell you personally how remarkably your spouses have performed over the last eight months.

Until the next note, rest assured that your Soldiers are

performing tremendous deeds on a daily basis out on the Frontier of Freedom. The May-June video should be distributed shortly, and the July version will be made once 1LT Taylor returns from leave. As always, email my wife if you would like to place an order for one. Thank you again for all of your continued love and support for Team Carnivore.

CPT Stefan McFarland
Carnivore 6

Hello to everyone in the Carnivore family. All of the soldiers in Team Carnivore have been doing a great job of staying focused on the task at hand. Thinking of our safe return home is a great prize for the close of our journey here in Iraq, yet we have a lot of work to do in securing our Area of Operation and preparing for the integration of the incoming unit. All of the end of tour awards have been completed and SGT Langone our supply sergeant is working diligently to prepare our property and equipment for our transition home.

Nevertheless, several of our Carnivore soldiers have been recognized for doing an outstanding job while serving on combat patrols. 1LT Van Cleave and CPL Imhoff have made notable accomplishments which have saved the lives of many soldiers in the Coalition Force. It's good to see SGT Wright back in the saddle again, blazing down the trail in his tank. It took courage for him to pull his crew back on board and his actions have been an inspiration to all of us.

Our infantry brothers are hands down some of the best in the Battalion. I wouldn't want to go into combat with any other infantrymen. We are thankful to have them in Team Carnivore.

I say it time and time again, that it is a privilege for me to be the First Sergeant of such a dedicated team of soldiers. Thank you again for your prayers and support. Respectfully,

ISG Charles King
Carnivore 7



The joys of driving on RTE
Patty!



The joys of living on the Island
Patrol Base!

DOGG NEWS

Wow! Another month has gone by. July has been as hectic as any other time here in Iraq. Right now, I don't think anyone in Delta Company is thinking of anything else than the Battle of Musayyib that occurred 22 July 2006. That

day will be one that I could never forget. I saw every man in the formation stand to and give a heroic effort that enabled the company to accomplish its most challenging and demanding mission yet. When LTC Donahoe talks about the VFW twenty years from now, the Battle of Musayyib will be what the soldiers of Delta Company talk about. If it weren't for a visit by the Denver Broncos Cheerleaders, the Battle would be the highlight of the month. Your soldiers have continued to perform well in difficult circumstances. Every soldier in this formation has distinguished himself – the tankers, infantrymen, mechanics, and medics have all been a part of Delta Company's success. We continue to fight the insurgency, although with less frustration now. This month we continued to place a strong emphasis on training the Iraqi Police and gaining them credibility with the local populace. I believe we've made some success in that area, and I think we'll have more success in that area next month as there have been some changes following the events of 22 July. We've also began working with the Iraqi Army. The Iraqi soldiers have been a good help to the company and we look forward to working with them more in the future and putting them in the lead – as they stand up, we'll stand down. Efforts to rebuild the political system in Musayyib took a severe hit this month and we'll have to redouble our efforts in the very near term. However, I think we will potentially have a stronger Musayyib District when all is

said and done. Even though we have about three months to go, there's still quite a bit of work to do before we can say "Mission Accomplished." There are many long days ahead and we'll continue to rely on your support. June ended on a sour note with the loss of CPL Jeremy Jones. I want to thank all of you who assisted the Jones Family with that difficult time. Jeremy was a great Soldier and we miss him; it will hurt for a while. As we get closer to redeployment, I'd ask that you not listen to any rumors that may be flying around right now. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me here in Iraq. Thank you for your support.

CPT Irvin Oliver
Dogg 6
ivin.oliver@us.army.mil



SGT Thompson Hard At Work



SGT McDaniel and SPC Shawl Posing With the Denver Broncos Cheerleaders



SGT Zickefoose Clowning With the Musayyib Police



SSG Castro and 1LT Mignano Doing Something Odd



SPC Velez Treating A Sick Iraqi Man



Delta Company Ninja XO

ELIMINATOR NEWS

To the families and friends of the Eliminators:

Another month has gone by very quickly here in Iraq, and again your soldiers have been outstanding. Their actions have been of the highest caliber, and their dedication has allowed the company and the battalion to accomplish some of its most important missions. Let me explain, it is because of them that we are able to turn over the control of an entire province in Iraq to the democratically elected government in Karbala, and relieve ourselves of responsibility of over 1 million people. It is because of your soldiers that we have made the battalion AO safer by constructing massive obstacles that prevent insurgents from moving across the desert and bringing IED supplies into the battalion area. Your soldiers are making every mission happen across the AO with their efforts, and their dedication and persistence sets the standard for the other companies here at FOB Iskan.

Conditions continue to improve here at FOB Iskan with the addition of modular housing for the company. While we have not yet moved into new housing ourselves, we are looking forward to moving into new facilities next month. The soldiers will receive a room with which they will only have one roommate in a shipping container which contains 3 rooms for six soldiers. They will also get an air conditioner and furniture, and a new shower/bath unit will be installed close by with indoor plumbing for showers and personal hygiene. Each container is surrounded by a 12 foot high concrete wall, and

each room is wired for electricity. KBR will handle all the maintenance for these new facilities and will free the soldiers from having to maintain their own residence.

1st and 2nd Platoons continue their missions successfully with 1LT Urie, SFC Tamjin, 2LT Germann, and SSG Banks in the lead. Each platoon continues to operate the Karbala Joint Coordination Center (JCC) on a weekly basis. The JCC exists to facilitate the flow of information between US Forces, the Iraqi Army, the Iraqi police and the Iraqi Government in Karbala. This helps to ensure a successful transition of security of the province into Iraqi hands as we work ourselves out of a job here in Iraq. Each platoon also continues to operate teams to escort EOD teams and weapons cache search teams. These teams help the other companies to focus on their missions while our soldiers concentrate on engineer tasks. We have also assigned every new soldier into 1st and 2nd platoons to ensure that they are fully manned and capable of accomplishing their mission. With our latest arrivals we now have two platoons at over 95% strength. Finally, 1st and 2nd platoon soldiers in the Brigade Route Clearance team at FOB Kalsu continue to accomplish a tough mission in conjunction with the soldiers of Echo Company 2-8 Infantry Battalion. These soldiers clear IEDs from Brigade routes to keep those roads open for our use. A&O/HQ platoon continues to run the company and provide equipment

operators in support of the specialized engineer operations. The bulldozer operators, to include SGT Maddox, SGT Kane, SPC Vang and SPC Lattin under the guidance of SFC Collins and SFC Thomas continue to construct obstacles to stop insurgent movement in the desert. They work tirelessly to build kilometers of earthen walls and ditches to help isolate insurgents operating in the battalion's area of operations. The platoon also continues to help improve the FOB by building a new FOB entrance and meeting every need for construction equipment.

Finally, the mechanics continue their flawless and tireless support to the soldiers. Every vehicle works when we need them, they are in great condition, and are always well maintained. The work of SGTs Maggard, Logan, Tubbs, Eckert, and the rest of the crew is simply the finest effort I have ever seen in my nine years in the army. They will stop at nothing to make sure that every modification is installed, and will even fabricate any parts needed for the vehicles. There are no words that can describe how well they support the Eliminators.

CPT James Sturm
Eliminator 6

FURY NEWS

As temperatures range from 85 degrees at night to as much as 115 degrees during the day the month of July comes to a close, Foxtrot Company continues to diligently meet the

challenges of supporting 1-67 Armor Battalion with continued success. As the ninth month draws down it finds us completing several missions with a wide range of logistical focuses. Our Company is responsible for making sure there is fuel for her sister companies. A Co, an Infantry Company along with C Co, a Tank Company, conducts operations from patrol bases that require our Soldiers to support them. Without this support, the mission of our Battalion would not be accomplished. Our days are marked with providing mechanics to support vehicles and generators that are used in the mission here along with the occasional need for securing our base and our missions. Under the warm stars and even hotter sun the Headquarters, Distribution and Maintenance Platoons work long hours and bear their weight with pride as their fellow soldiers patrol the roads and streets of Iraq. It is their hard work everyday that ensures the Battalion can maintain the forces that are bringing calm and a sense of peace in our sector. It is our Soldiers, your Soldier, that make this one of the most rewarding jobs in the Army for myself and 1SG Jenkins. And the support that we receive from you, our families, is worth its weight in gold.

From the harsh sands of Iraq, despite our busy days we still find the time to conduct promotions and reenlistments. We just promoted 15 Soldiers to SGT, SPC, PFC and PV2 and we promoted several more on the 1st of August.

Congratulations to all, it is well deserved by all of them.

On the afternoon of the 22nd of July the city of Musayyib located south of our Forward Operating Base erupted with gun fire and rockets as armed militia attacked the Iraqi Police. On a moment's notice our Battalion swept in to assist the Policemen with Tanks and Infantry. You need to be proud of your Soldiers for it was their seamless support that allowed our Battalion to act fearlessly and without hesitation. In the days that followed the incident our Soldiers of Fury reacted promptly to gather water and food for the civilians who were without due to the damage that was caused by the militia. In the days following, your Soldier either traveled to accumulate the supplies and money to begin the rebuilding process or conducted repairs and maintenance on the tanks and infantry vehicles that were directly involved in the incident. It was the direct acts of our Soldiers that contributed to the betterment of Iraq and the maintenance of this Battalion faced with defeating the armed militias. All of the leaders of Fury Company are immensely proud of your Soldiers for their diligent hard work and service.

To the loved ones back at home, I want to thank you for all of your sacrifice and support. It is our families and loved ones that make this deployment bearable. As we flow into the month of August, let us remember that we must remain vigilant in our tasks at hand so we may join you as soon as possible.

CPT Jason A. Ballard
Fury 6

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

R&R: Rest and Reflections:

I recently had the opportunity to go on R&R for a couple of weeks. Although the trip to get home was an exercise in frustration, it was all worth it. The time with my family passed by too quickly, but we managed to fit a lot of time together in those two weeks.

What these two weeks did for me was to confirm a belief about priorities. Our careers, our hobbies, our special interests are healthy pieces of a person's life, but they should never take priority over the relationships we have built with our spouse, our children, our friends and our God. Time lost is never recovered. I never want to look back on life and say to myself, "I wish I had lived life differently."

Take time to reflect on the deployment and the effect it made on you and your family. What have you lost? What have you gained? What difference will it make in your life?

God Bless

CPT (CH) Carl Otis

